

Good Roads Help Immigration.

Immigration is a subject that seems to be occupying a great deal of attention in North Carolina at the present time. The newspapers are discussing the question vigorously in the hope of reaching the best settlement of this important problem for the State. The matter grows more serious each year and the complaints of farmers particularly and others who are largely dependent upon hired labor have induced our Senators in Congress and our Governor to look carefully into the matter, and they are recommending in speeches and otherwise the importation of desirable immigrants from Europe.

One of the first things to be considered by a thrifty farmer from the Old World will be the condition of the public roads in the neighborhood in which he will settle. In France, Germany, England and many parts of Italy the roads are of such character that the products of the farms and garden can be easily and profitably carried to market every day in the year. It may not be at all surprising, therefore, if the sections of North Carolina where the highways are already improved secure the larger number of the better class of immigrants we are now endeavoring to induce to come into the State.

This fact should inspire some of our backward counties to make a movement in this direction before the tide of immigration has already begun to flow in other and more progressive channels.

J. H. A.

Alliance Picnic in Lexington County.

Messrs. Editors: The morning for the recent August Alliance picnic in Lexington County dawned bright and clear over the Piney Woods section, and as a consequence, quite a large crowd of people gathered in front of the parsonage to enjoy the festivities of the day.

At 11 o'clock the chairman called the meeting to order and introduced Prof. D. A. Kleckley, who, in a short, but well-delivered speech, made everybody welcome. Then owing to the absence of the other speakers, the chairman had to make the last speaker first. Hon. A. F. Lever was then introduced. His subject was "The Cotton Growers' Association." He spoke for an hour and a quarter. He said that the farmers should organize and stand together for their rights. All other trades and professions are organized, and why not the farmers? First of all, he said the farmer should be self-sustaining. Organization can do no good unless he has his corn crib full of corn in his own lot and his smoke-house full of hams and bacon in his own yard. By organization the farmer has forced cotton higher, but he said the farmer must fight on if he would win a complete victory over the gamblers. He closed his speech with an eloquent appeal to the young men to stay on the farm. His speech was fine, full of good things for the farmer.

Dinner was next announced, and this was the most important thing on the program—at least some of us thought so. The good ladies then began to spread the dinner on the table near by, and when they had finished it was packed and jammed with good things to eat. Everybody was invited to partake, and after the blessing had been asked, the crowd proceeded to unload the table of its dainty burden. When all had finished dinner, there was enough left to feed a great many more.

After an intermission of an hour and a half, the meeting was again called to order, and Hon. D. F. Efrid was introduced. He spoke on "The Need of the Farmers' Alliance." He told us that the Alliance cause had been greatly injured by designing

politicians. They got on the farmers "band wagon" and were great workers for the interests of the farmer until the farmer saw fit to leave them off their ballots at election time. Then they jumped off and were heard of no more in the farmers' organization. The Alliance needs men; men who will stand for principle, and if need be fight for it; men who are not tossed about by every wind that blows—men who will stand together and "hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may." His speech was sound and logical.

Prof. S. J. Derrick, of Newberry College, was the next speaker. He made an earnest plea for the farmers to organize and make their influence felt. He pleaded for the farmers to make better homes and have more of the modern conveniences in their homes. His speech was good and full of sound advice. After Prof. Derrick finished the meeting was adjourned.

We extend our sympathy to Rev. J. A. Sligh, who was absent on account of sickness, also to Hon. J. C. Wilborn, who was absent on account of death among his kindred. We regret very much that they could not be with us.

And now our picnic has passed into memory. Excellent order was maintained; refreshments were served, and good music was furnished by a local string band. We went away glad that we were there.

ONE PRESENT.

Lexington Co., N. C.

The Responsibility of Parents in Guarding Children.

The terrible outrage that came to light in Raleigh in which a young man was shot and two daughters worse than killed, ought to arouse parents with reference to their children's associates.

In this fast age, when the tendency is to make young women of girls when they are by nature and ought to be by training mere children; when our boys must be men, smoke cigarettes, curse, do like men do, by the time they are 12 to 15 years of age, parents need not be surprised at the results which so frequently follow.

How many girls are allowed to go out and their parents not only not with them, but do not even know where they are, or with whom they associate.

But how shall we know who is a suitable companion? It is true it is difficult to tell who is who, but one thing is sure, when a married man is taking a peculiar interest in a young 16-year-old girl, as was the case with one of the parties in Raleigh, then you may be sure that such a man is

no fit associate for your girl. But how shall we know when our daughters are in such company? It is our business and a very important business, too, to know where and with whom our children associate.

We need to go back to the days of our forefathers in the matter of raising our children.

If we allow our children to grow up and drift among evil associates while in tender years, we will be likely to repent in bitter tears when it is too late.—Newton News.

Town Improvement Societies.

All honor is due Miss Mary Page for the active interest she is taking in trying to make our town sightly. She has formed the small boys and girls into a Town Improvement Society and we learn will place nice painted barrels at all the street corners for the trash to be thrown in and have other plans for the improvement of the town.

This society needs the aid and encouragement of every man and wo-

man in town, and our city fathers can greatly aid them in their work by enforcing their trash ordinance.—Aberdeen Telegram.

Town improvement societies are a great benefit to any town. These societies have marked wonders in many towns and cities in the North and West, and there is no reason why they should not be organized in the South. The Courier has often called attention to the importance of the organization of these societies in the towns and villages in this section. Let some good lady start the ball in every town and village. Much can be done in the way of improving the streets and lawns. Shade trees can be planted and the cultivation of flowers can be encouraged and our towns and villages changed in appearance by the energy, industry and determination of our good women. Who will start the movement and keep it up?—Asheboro Courier.

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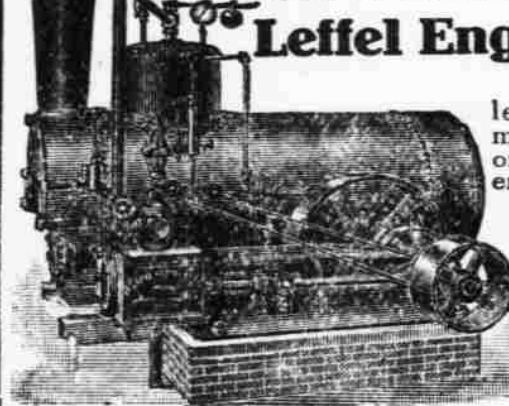
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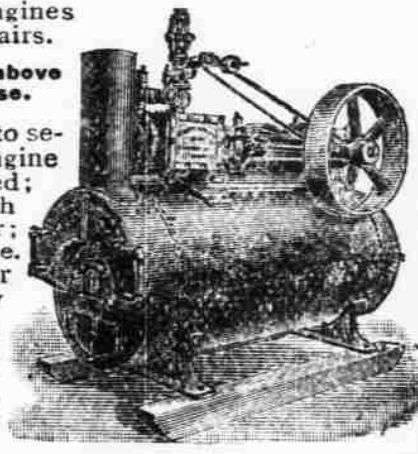
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